

Cabinet Agenda

Monday, 8 April 2019 at 6.00 pm

Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 3UY

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3.	Minutes of Last Meeting on 4 March 2019	1 - 8
4.	Rough Sleeping Update <i>(Andrew Palmer, Assistant Director, Housing and Built Environment)</i> <i>(Cabinet Decision)</i>	9 - 14
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7.	Urgent Items (if any)	
a)	Temporary Accommodation Update <i>(Andrew Palmer, Assistant Director, Housing and Built Environment)</i> <i>(Cabinet Decision)</i>	23 - 28
Exclusion of the Public		
<p>To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the items of business listed below because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of "exempt" information as defined in the paragraphs of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 referred to in the relevant report.</p>		

b) Commercial Property Purchases
(Peter Grace, Assistant Director, Financial Services and Revenues)
(Cabinet Decision)

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Present: Councillors Chowney (Chair), Forward (Vice-Chair), Batsford, S Beaney, Rogers, Lee and Patmore

155. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received for Councillor Fitzgerald.

156. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The following councillors declared their interests in the minutes as indicated:

Councillor	Minute	Interest
Lee	158 and 166	Prejudicial – Knows the developers
S Beaney	158 and 166	Prejudicial – Hastings older women's community housing
Forward	158 and 166	Personal – owns a beach hut in the area

157. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2019 be approved as a true record.

RESOLVED under rule 13.3 of the council's constitution, the recommendations set out in minute number 163 were agreed without being called for discussion.

158. SITE AT WEST MARINA

With the agreement of the chair this item was moved to the top of the agenda. Councillors Lee and S Beaney left the chamber during the discussion and vote.

The Assistant Director Financial Services and Revenues presented a report to relevant objections received regarding the proposed long lease of land forming open space at West Marina and thereafter agree, if appropriate, the Heads of Terms for the long lease of the site.

The Council must fully and properly consider any relevant objections in accordance with statutory provision in coming to a decision.

The agreement of the Heads of Terms enables the Council and the developer to draw up the necessary legal agreement in order to progress a development proposal. Any such proposal will need planning permission.

Such relevant objections relate to the loss of open space rather than any specific development proposals which may subsequently be forthcoming.

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Virginia Vilela the lead petitioner spoke on behalf of the petitioners:

- The petitioner believes that is a valuable green space that should be enhanced and protected to make West St Leonards a destination for locals and visitors
- The petitioner is keen to see a positive future for this site, building on the leisure and recreational use she believes a residential/commercial development would not enhance this seafront site in any way. The site is used by many groups of people.
- The petitioner drew attention to the storm tanks under the site. Due to Southern Waters access requirements to these she believes that nothing can be built on top of them.
- The petitioner doesn't believe the preferred contractor has any relevant experience for recreational development.
- The petitioner would like the council to consider the old Stamco site and MOD site as part of redevelopment plans

The Assistant Director Financial Services and Revenues spoke on the item: There is no formal scheme to be consulted on as yet. This is in the council's development plan. The public will have a say, as will Councillors, on the final scheme. A scheme would go through a planning process and include planning forums once agreed. It is recognised the land is well used and the outline discussions would not lose the recreational space and the children's play area. This scheme is intending to enhance the recreational use. We have received assurances that these are viable on this site and the intention here is to develop a quality site and destination. The development of this site has been in the last 3 local plans but it hasn't been an attractive site to developers until recently.

All other developers were proposing housing developments but County Gate are proposing housing, some cafes, restaurants and a slipway. The idea is to spread tourism along to the West Marina. Councillors discussed the slipway being previously rejected but experts have since come up with new ideas that they assure us can work.

Councillors asked where we are with the Stamco and MOD sites. The council are in discussions for the MOD site, and the Stamco site is on the market but at a very high asking price. The beach huts on the site have the potential to remain but there are also plans to relocate them.

Councillor Chowney proposed approval of the recommendations of the Assistant Director's report. This was seconded by Councillor Batsford.

RESOLVED (by 4 for, to 1 against) that:

1. Having carried out the necessary procedures under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 and having taken account of the relevant objections received Cabinet is recommended to enter into a long lease with County Gate/Sunley on the Heads of Terms contained in the Part 2 report.

2. That the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the leader of the Council and Chief Legal Officer, be authorised to negotiate and agree the final terms of

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the lease disposal.

Reasons for the recommendation:

The Council must fully and properly consider any relevant objections in accordance with statutory provision in coming to a decision.

The agreement of the Heads of Terms enables the Council and the developer to draw up the necessary legal agreement in order to progress a development proposal. Any such proposal will need planning permission.

Such relevant objections relate to the loss of open space rather than any specific development proposals which may subsequently be forthcoming.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6.49pm. The Chair reconvened the meeting at 6.54pm.

159. ANIMAL WELFARE LICENSING POLICY

The Assistant Director Environment and Place submitted a report to consider the adoption of the council's first Animal Welfare Licensing Policy relating to the administration and enforcement of the new animal welfare licensing regime, arising from the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018.

Bob Brown the licensing manager spoke on the report:

In October 2018 the new Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 came into force. These regulations replaced and revoked much of the old animal licensing legislation, bringing them within the remit of one set of regulations. However, it does not cover the licensing of dangerous wild animals or zoos, which remain under their existing legislation.

In addition, the regulations introduced new licensing categories such as doggy day care and the keeping or training of animals for exhibition, the latter was previously the responsibility of the County Council. A transitional period was introduced by the regulations; this lasted to 31st December 2018 to allow existing licence holders under the old legislation to register their applications under the new regulations.

Officers have used the transitional period to attend government briefings, inform existing licence holders of the changes and prepare all new forms, letters and licences ready for the implementation date. All existing licence holders and new applicants are currently undergoing comprehensive inspections.

The animal welfare licensing legislation does not require Licensing Authorities to have a specific policy, but it is considered best practice. It will ensure applicants for licences and members of the Environment and Safety Committee determining licence applications have a clear understanding of the council's policy regarding the new animal welfare licensing regime.

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Councillor Rogers proposed approval of the recommendations of the Assistant Director's report. This was seconded by Councillor Lee.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

1. Cabinet endorses the draft Animal Welfare Licensing Policy attached at appendix A; and recommends that it is adopted by Full Council.

Reasons for the decision:

To ensure applicants for licences and members of the Environment and Safety Committee determining licence applications, have a clear understanding of the council's policy regarding the new animal licensing regime. It should also enable the authority to defend any legal challenges to committee decisions.

160. BOHEMIA LEISURE AND CULTURAL FACILITIES STUDY BRIEF

The Marketing and Major Projects Manager presented a report to recommend undertaking a comprehensive feasibility study to identify the scale and location of the new leisure and cultural facilities in the Bohemia area, and to enter into a contract with East Sussex County Council to carry out associated feasibility works and studies.

Over the past year, officers have been developing the plans for the area, pursuing proposals and discussions with different types of potential partners (private and public) who may assist with the delivery of the plans.

Councillors discussed how a feasibility study would inform future decisions on the bohemia area and how it is a pivotal piece of the development. It was noted that the relocation of the ambulance service would have no direct impact on the ability of the service to respond. Councillors considered the lifespan of the Summerfield's facility and how new facilities to replace it will generate income that may cover the cost of building. Music, arts and sport have a large impact on areas of high deprivation.

Councillor Forward proposed approval of the recommendations of the report. This was seconded by Councillor Batsford.

RESOLVED (by 5 for to 2 against) that:

1. Cabinet agrees to spend up to £100k to fund the commissioning of feasibility reports and related studies for the development of leisure, culture and open spaces within the Bohemia area (£10k of this to come from Arts Council England, and external funding sought; the remaining up to £90k required will be funded through existing budgets and an approved growth item of up to £19k).
2. Delegation is given to the Director of Operational Services, or his nominee, in consultation with the lead member, to agree the final contractual deliverables and outputs with the appointed consultant.
3. Delegation is given to the Director of Operational Services or his nominee to enter into contractual arrangements with East Sussex County Council to carry out feasibility works and studies as per the One Public Estate bid.

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Reasons for the decision:

1 and 2) Our vision for the new Bohemia Quarter is to develop a distinct leisure and cultural destination and create a new living quarter for Hastings. The ambitions are considerable: new homes, new hotel(s), new leisure centre, new cultural facilities, re-vitalised outdoor leisure facilities, gardens and public spaces. The studies will focus on developing concept proposals for housing, leisure and cultural facilities in the Bohemia area.

3 The 'One Public Estate' grant/loan funding is awarded through East Sussex County Council.

161. NOTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS

162. URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

163. INSURANCE AND CASH COLLECTION CONTRACTS

Peter Grace Assistant Director Finance and Revenues presented a report to agree the procurement arrangements through the East Sussex Procurement Hub for the Insurance and Cash Collection Contracts.

Under rule 13.3, the recommendations of the report were agreed without being called for discussion.

RESOLVED that:

1. To agree that authority be given to the Assistant Director Finance and Revenues (Chief Finance Officer) in consultation with the leader of the Council to determine final contract terms and conditions and award a contract to the suppliers that offer the most economically advantageous tenders in respect of Insurance and Cash Collection.

Reasons for the decision:

The current insurance contract expires on 31 March 2019 and the cash collection contract expires on 31 August 2019.

164. DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES ON CHURCHFIELDS ESTATE

The Assistant Director Financial Services and Revenues and the Assistant Director Regeneration and Culture presented a report to agree the inclusion of the "Sidney Little Road Business Incubator Hub" within the capital programme subject to the receipt of grant funding. A decision is expected on or around the 8th March 2019.

The report further highlights the current funding requirements in order to develop the remaining two sites on Council owned land on Sidney Little Road and includes details of the potential developments that are being proposed.

Cllr Chowney spoke to the recommendations without moving to agree.

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Councillors agreed to vote on the recommendations for both agenda items 11 and 12 in the part 2 relating to this item. This was to save voting on it twice, as the recommendations are the same.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

Recommendation(s)

1. To agree the inclusion of the Sidney Little road Business Incubator Hub within the Capital programme with an estimated budget, including fees of £2.8m.
2. To seek external funding for the shortfalls, and/ or negotiate options with interested parties, based on the potential unit sizes.
 - (i) Plot 2 - 35 Sq ft factory unit
 - (ii) Plot 3 - 3 to 8 Factory units (flexible sizes)
3. Cabinet to note the potential Capital expenditure of £10m in total for the 3 sites should viable proposals be received or external funding bids be successful.

Reasons for Recommendations:

The land is allocated for employment use in the Development Management Plan (DMP). The site is in the Council's ownership and offers opportunities for development. The schemes are sufficiently worked up to identify funding shortfalls and seek external grants, undertake negotiations to develop the sites.

Should external funding be received there is a ready-made opportunity to help address unemployment and improve the economic opportunities for companies within the town, in line with Corporate Plan objectives.

The Council expects to learn the outcome of an external funding bid in early March 2019 and needs to be ready to progress the development of the site – should the Cabinet agree to make funding available.

165. DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES ON CHURCHFIELDS ESTATE - (PART 2 REPORT)

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during the, consideration of the items of business listed below because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of “exempt” information as defined in the paragraphs of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 referred to in the relevant report.

The Assistant Director Financial Services and Revenues presented a report to agree the inclusion of the “Sidney Little Road Business Incubator Hub” within the capital programme subject to the receipt of grant funding. A decision is expected on or around the 8th March 2019. The report further highlights the current funding

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requirements in order to develop the remaining two sites on Council owned land and includes details of the potential developments that are being proposed.

Councillor Chowney proposed approval of the recommendations of the Assistant Director's report for both agenda items 11 and 12. This was seconded by Councillor Patmore.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

1. To agree the inclusion of the Sidney Little road Business Incubator Hub within the Capital programme with an estimated budget, including fees of £2.8m.

2. To seek external funding for the shortfalls, and/ or negotiate options with interested parties, based on the potential unit sizes.

(i) Plot 2 - 35 Sq ft factory unit

(ii) Plot 3 - 3 to 8 Factory units (flexible sizes)

3. Cabinet to note the potential Capital expenditure of £10m in total for the 3 sites should viable proposals be received or external funding bids be successful.

Reasons for the decision:

The land is allocated for employment use in the Development Management Plan (DMP). The site is in the Council's ownership and offers opportunities for development. The schemes are sufficiently worked up to identify funding shortfalls and seek external grants, undertake negotiations to develop the sites.

Should external funding be received there is a ready made opportunity to help address unemployment and improve the economic opportunities for companies within the town, in line with Corporate Plan objectives.

The Council expects to learn the outcome of an external funding bid in early March 2019 and needs to be ready to progress the development of the site – should the Cabinet agree to make funding available.

166. SITE AT WEST MARINA - (PART 2 REPORT)

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during the, consideration of the items of business listed below because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of "exempt" information as defined in the paragraphs of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 referred to in the relevant report.

Councillors Lee and S Beaney left the chamber during the discussion and vote.

The Assistant Director Financial Services and Revenues presented a report to agree Heads of Terms for the long lease of the site at West Marina.

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Councillor Chowney proposed approval of the recommendations of the Assistant Director's report. This was seconded by Councillor Batsford.

RESOLVED (by 4 for, to 1 against) that:

- 1. To enter into a long lease with County Gate/Sunley on the Heads of Terms attached at Appendix 1**
- 2. That the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the leader of the Council and Chief Legal Officer, be authorised to negotiate and agree the final terms of the lease disposal.**

Reasons for the recommendation:

The agreement of the Heads of Terms enables the Council and the developer to draw up the necessary legal agreement in order to progress a development proposal. Any such proposal will need planning permission.

(Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.58pm)

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 7.58 pm)

Agenda Item 4



Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 8 April 2019

Report Title: Rough Sleeping Update

Report By: Andrew Palmer, Assistant Director, Housing and Built Environment

Purpose of Report

To advise Cabinet on trends in rough sleeping locally and update on the work of the council and its partners to address this issue.

Recommendation(s)

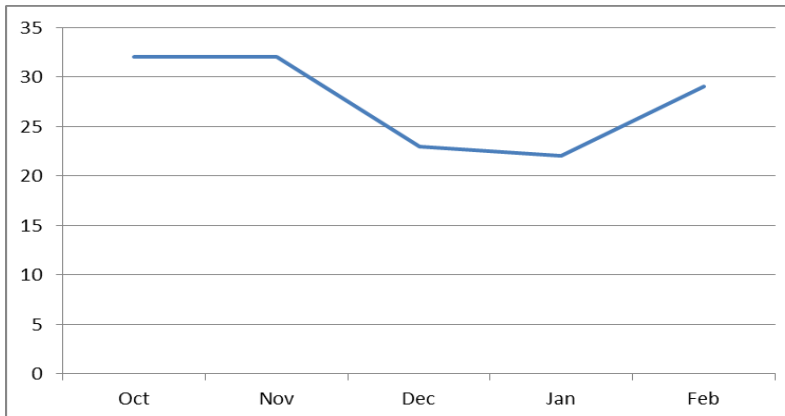
- 1. To endorse the actions outlined in the report aimed at helping to address the increasing trend in rough sleeping.**
- 2. To acknowledge progress mobilising the Hastings and Eastbourne Rough Sleeping Initiative in 2018/19 and to authorise expenditure of £824,843 to continue the programme of services in 2019/20.**
- 3. To authorise expenditure of £310,000 of funding awarded to the Hastings Borough Council-led Rapid Rehousing Pathway project. To grant an exemption to the council's Financial Rules under paragraph 21c of the Financial Operating Procedures, to enable the council to procure the service directly from Southdown Housing Association.**
- 4. That £10,000 be reallocated from the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant allocation to support temporary accommodation and rent in advance of deposits for people using the Rapid Rehousing Pathway.**
- 5. To authorise expenditure of the from the reducing health inequalities programme, funded by Hastings and Rother Clinical Commissioning Group, including £20,000 worth of funding for a project working with rough sleepers.**
- 6. To delegate authority to the Assistant Director, Housing and Built Environment in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing and Leisure Services, to finalise arrangements for the mobilisation and delivery, including entering into any contractual arrangements, of the Rough Sleeping Initiative, Rapid Rehousing Pathway and Clinical Commissioning Group funded activities .**

Reasons for Recommendations

The council has secured additional funding for projects to reduce rough sleeping.

Introduction

1. The number of people rough sleeping in Hastings on a typical night in Hastings increased by 85% between 2016 and 2018 from 26 to 48.
2. Nationally, the total number of rough sleepers has fallen by 1.5% from 4,751 in 2017 to 4,677 in 2018.
3. It is possible that the number of people rough sleeping can vary throughout the year. The graph below shows the average number of people rough sleeping in Hastings over the past 5 months:



4. Of the rough sleepers verified in February, 14% were female, 21% had a local connection to Hastings and 10% were flow or new rough sleepers.
5. The fall in the verified number of rough sleepers at the end of 2018 can be attributed in part to additional winter weather provision including the Snowflake Shelter and severe weather night shelter.
6. In addition to housing, rough sleepers often have a range of other needs, particularly related to health, mental health, social care and substance misuse. As such, they require a more intensive level of support to access and sustain accommodation.

Reducing Rough Sleeping

7. The council and its partners are developing a range of activities to reduce the number of people rough sleeping in the town.

Outreach

8. The council part-funds a rough sleeper outreach service through its Community Partnership Fund (CPF) programme, which is delivered by the Seaview Project.
9. CPF funding has been confirmed to continue the service in 2019/20 and 2020/21. The service will provide twice weekly outreach sessions, ensuring the council has accurate information about the number of people rough sleeping in the town and each individual's support needs are understood.

10. Data gathered during the outreach sessions is important in shaping how services for rough sleepers are designed and delivered in the future.

Rough Sleeping Initiative

11. The Rough Sleeping Initiative is a joint project between Hastings and Eastbourne Councils. The aim of the project is to reduce the number of rough sleepers in both towns by improving access to statutory services, temporary accommodation and long term housing solutions for entrenched rough sleepers in both towns.
12. A grant of £664,000 was received from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in June 2018, and the project has been operational since September 2018. The project is managed on behalf of both councils by a Senior Rough Sleeper Project Co-ordinator.
13. A multi-disciplinary team of health, mental health, social care, substance misuse and housing professionals working collaboratively to develop holistic support plans for each individual. Temporary accommodation, with support, is provided at an Assessment Centre in Hastings. From here, the multi-disciplinary team identify the most suitable long term accommodation solution for each individual. Those individuals who require the highest level of ongoing support are able to access new Housing First units in Hastings and Eastbourne. The accommodation for the Housing First units is provided by social landlords, and the project has created a support team to work with individuals placed in this accommodation. The level of support is gradually reduced over time as each individual is able to live independently. The project has also enhanced day centre activities in both towns.
14. The table below shows the project outcomes across Hastings and Eastbourne between October 2018 and February 2019:

	Number of Individuals
Provided with emergency accommodation	8
Provided with temporary accommodation	25
Provided with long-term accommodation	7
Supported accommodation	1

15. The Rough Sleeping Initiative has also enhanced the council’s rough sleeping prevention activities through the Sussex Rough Sleeping Prevention Project. Between October 2018 and February 2019, an additional 74 individuals were prevented from rough sleeping.

16. The project has received a provisional grant allocation of £800,000 from the MHCLG to continue the project for a further year from April 2019. This is supplemented by a carry forward from the 2018/19 grant of £14,000, plus a further £10,843 contribution from Hastings and Eastbourne Councils. This gives a total budget of £824,843 for 2019/20.
17. It has been necessary to re-profile the budget for 2019/20, due to funding reductions to some elements of the project and other interventions exceeding the original budget projections. It has also provided an opportunity to address operational issues identified in the first 6 months of operating the project.
18. The council will need to undertake a procurement exercise to commission day centre, street activities, Housing First support and temporary accommodation services for 2019/20, this is expected to be completed by June 2019. The contracts with our existing providers have been extended while this takes place, to avoid any potential gaps in service provision.
19. The Sussex Rough Sleeping Prevention Project will come to an end in March 2019.

Rapid Rehousing Pathway

20. Hastings Borough Council led a successful 5-party bid on behalf of Eastbourne, Rother, Lewes and Wealden Councils to the MHCLG's Rapid Rehousing Pathway.
21. The project is based on a supported lettings model, creating a dedicated team of support officers working with rough sleepers with low to medium level support needs and people at a high risk of rough sleeping to access and sustain accommodation. The project will accept referrals from the council's housing options team, as well as utilising the referral routes with statutory and voluntary sector partners created through the Sussex Rough Sleeping Prevention Project.
22. In February 2019, the MHCLG confirmed that £310,000 had been allocated to this project in 2019/20. The funding will provide a team of 8 support officers and 1 team leader, 3 members of the team will be co-located with the housing options team in Hastings. The timescales to mobilise the project are very short, as the officers need to be in post in April. We are therefore not able to recruit to these posts directly or carry out a full procurement exercise to meet the required MHCLG timescales.
23. East Sussex County Council have advised that we are unable to vary their existing contract for community based support services.
24. We are therefore seeking an exemption to our financial rules under paragraph 21c of the Financial Operating Procedures to commission the service directly from Southdown Housing Association. Southdown currently deliver a county-wide community based support service for homeless households and have the capacity to mobilise the project at pace. Southdown also successfully delivered the Sussex Rough Sleeping Prevention Project, which came to an end in March 2019.
25. The funding allocated by the MHCLG can only be used to fund staffing. Meeting temporary and long term accommodation costs will remain a challenge for participants in the project. It is therefore recommended that £10,000 worth of Flexible Homelessness Support Grant funding, originally allocated for a rent

guarantor pilot, is reallocated to provide temporary accommodation for participants on the project and additional support to access long term accommodation. An alternative funding source has been secured for the rent guarantor scheme, and the pilot will go ahead as planned.

Reducing Health Inequalities

26. Hastings and Rother Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will invest £20,000 in 2019/20 as part of its programme to reduce health inequalities, for a project working with rough sleepers. Hastings Borough Council will also fund a specialist housing options officer to work with rough sleepers, through its Flexible Homelessness Support Grant allocation.
27. The CCG investment will be used to enhance street activity and engagement with rough sleepers, ensuring they are linked to the most appropriate pathway of support. It will also provide a triage service at Seaview, ensuring that the specialist housing options officer can continue to co-locate at the centre part time.
28. The programme will provide funding of £229,186 for phase 1 of the health and wellbeing community hubs, plus a further £85,500 for a co-investment programme in Ore, Hollington and Sidley as set out in the original business plan for 2019/20. However, funding of £12,587 for the co-ordination of these activities has been removed.

Strategic Oversight

29. While the additional resources to tackle rough sleeping are to be welcomed, the short-term nature of much of the funding creates challenges to developing a sustainable pathway of support for rough sleepers.
30. It is intended that learning from all of the above projects will be reported to the East Sussex Housing Officers Group (ESHOG). ESHOG is strategic group, comprising all 5 local housing authorities, reporting to the East Sussex Chief Executives Group on the delivery of housing and homelessness services across the county.
31. The Rough Sleeping Initiative Strategic Board has also been established, which brings together senior representatives of health, mental health, social care, substance misuse and housing partners. The purpose of the board is to ensure that good practice developed by the Rough Sleeping Initiative, informs future service delivery for vulnerable groups.
32. Continuing efforts to reduce rough sleeping will also form a key part of the council's new Housing and Homelessness Strategy, which is due to be adopted later this year.

Wards Affected

All wards

Implications

[Relevant project tools applied? Yes](#)

Have you checked this report for plain english and readability? No

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness Yes

Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17) No

Risk Management No

Environmental Issues No

Economic/Financial Implications Yes

Human Rights Act No

Organisational Consequences Yes

Local People's Views No

Anti-Poverty Yes

Additional Information

Insert a list of appendices and/or additional documents. Report writers are encouraged to use links to existing information, rather than appending large documents.

Officer to Contact

Officer Name Michael Courts

Officer Email Address mcourts@hastings.gov.uk

Officer Telephone Number 01424 451315

Agenda Item 5

Public Document Pack

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

11 MARCH 2019

Present: Councillors Forward (Chair), K Beaney, Bishop, Evans, Levane, Sinden, Patmore, Webb and Museum Association Representatives, Mrs Purdey, Mr Peak, Mr Palfrey-Martin and Mr Dudman.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received for Councillor O'Callaghan (substituted by Councillor Evans) and Mrs E Barrett.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 25 JUNE 2018 AND 10 SEPTEMBER 2018

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings held on 25 June 2018 and 10 SEPTEMBER 2018 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. NOTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS

5. MUSEUM UPDATE REPORT

The Museum and Cultural Development Manager presented a report to update the Committee on the museum's work since the last formal meeting.

This report outlines the work of the museum since the previous formal Museum Committee meeting and includes an update from the Informal Committee Meeting in November 2018.

The museum enjoyed a good December, with the Festive Family Trail during the Christmas holiday helping to boost the visitor figures for Quarter 3. Particularly well attended was the Winter Tales day with 235 people visiting the museum.

The museum has earned £17,264 of its target this year. This is in line with previous year's income figures. In the coming year a full review of the museum's fees and charges will be completed. New income generation opportunities are currently being identified by the museum's income generation group.

The museum has shown five exhibitions in the art gallery and walkway since September. For families, each school holiday period will include free trails or activities. The free offer will be supplemented by low-cost regular artist-led activities for children during holidays as well.

Over the past six months 1,627 pupils have visited the museum. School bookings are increasing in frequency due to repeat visits. Three new core sessions for schools have been developed: Dinosaurs and Fossils; Museum Detectives and The Romans. Handling collections and workshop resources to have been reviewed and refreshed

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and now complement our offer. The museum's website has been updated to include teacher's notes and a new online booking form has been added.

In addition an exhibition strategy has now set out as have learning and volunteer policies.

The Committee welcomed the report, discussed the revised strategy and policies, and thanked the Museum and Cultural Development Manager for his work.

A suggestion was made in regards to linking up with Summerfields Leisure Centre in order to attract groups and children's parties to the museum. The Museum Manger responded it would be good to have a more joined up approach with leisure facilities.

The Museum and Cultural Development Manager acknowledged and thanked his team for their work.

Councillor Levane proposed a motion to approve the recommendations in the report, seconded by Councillor Sinden.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

To accept this report and recommend approval by Cabinet.

6. COLLECTIONS REPORT

The Museum and Cultural Development Manager presented a report to update the Committee on collections care, access, acquisitions, loans and objects being considered for rationalisation. The report also includes collections policies for review.

The museum's offsite store has now been moved. This work was undertaken as the building has been allocated as the main depot for the council's new in-house street cleaning service. The collections were cleaned, checked and packed by the museum team with support from other council colleagues before being moved to a new temporary storage facility. The museum aims to eliminate the need for an offsite store over the next two years through the reorganisation of current storage arrangements and through a targeted programme of rationalisation.

Since November the curators have received 165 enquires related to the collections and the Local Studies Room has been well used since its re-opening in November.

The Committee discussed the report and the attached policies.

Mr Peak proposed a motion to approve the recommendations in the report, seconded by Mrs Purdey.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

To accept this report and recommend approval by Cabinet.

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7. REPORT ON HASTINGS MUSEUM & ART GALLERY BUSINESS PLAN, 2019-2021

The Museum and Cultural Development Manager presented a report to gain approval for the Hastings Museum & Art Gallery Business Plan 2019-2021, which will deliver a community museum with an improved approach to outreach, commerciality and income generation.

From 2016-18 the *Finding Our Place* project, funded by the Arts Council England (ACE), reviewed the sustainability of the museum, its collections, programme and organisational health.

This work laid the foundations for the next stage of the museum's development:

- A museum that is focused on community engagement, particularly with groups from disadvantaged areas, minorities and vulnerable groups
- A museum with a strong emphasis on promoting health, well-being, education and lifelong learning
- A resilient museum that is positioned to capitalise on funding opportunities.

The successful delivery of the business plan requires a fundamental reorganisation of staffing at the museum. The purpose of this reorganisation is to create staff structures that enable community-focused working, improve income generation and make the organisation more resilient for the future. HMAG will retain 6.7 full time equivalent (FTE) core-funded posts with an additional 1 FTE post which is externally funded.

The Museum and Cultural Development Manager informed the Committee that bullet point 2 of paragraph 4 of the report should also read inclusive. The business plan has been developed to ensure the museum is ready to capitalise on the changes to funding priorities by major grant-making organisations through a clear focus on community engagement.

The Committee welcomed the renewed focus on community engagement. It was suggested that the museum look to raise finance to build an extension on Council owned ground so that the current collection can be expanded. The Museum and Cultural Development Manager said that there is a long term ambition to seek finance for capital investment and to bring in an improved café, learning space and on-site storage.

A query was raised regarding staffing. The staffing list indicates that 3 full-time members of staff are being managed by 1 part-time member of staff. Concern was raised that, with six people reporting directly to the Museum and Cultural Development Manager, the ability to undertake the more ambitious elements of this plan may be impacted. The Museum and Cultural Development Manager replied that the team are working within the confines of what they have available.

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

11 MARCH 2019

A question was raised regarding work experience. The Committee was informed the Museum has already welcomed two students from the local college and that work experience has been formerly included in the business plan.

The Committee discussed the possibility of engaging schools in project work looking at local heritage and history across different wards. It was suggested that the Fellowship of St Nicholas may be able to help with outreach and engagement.

The Museum and Cultural Development Manager welcomed all suggestions.

Mr Palfry-Martin proposed a motion to approve the recommendations in the report, seconded by Mr Peak.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

To accept this report and recommended approval by Cabinet.

Reasons for the recommendation:

The business plan creates the conditions for:

1. A museum that is focused on community engagement, particularly with people from disadvantaged areas, minorities and vulnerable groups.
2. A museum with a strong emphasis on promoting health, well-being, education and lifelong learning.
3. A resilient museum that is positioned to capitalise on funding opportunities.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In response to a question regarding the Museum website it was confirmed that the website is now down to a basic framework of information and the underlying technology requires investment.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 3.29 pm)

Agenda Item 6

To Councillor Webb
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

ACCESS TO INFORMATION RULES

KEY DECISIONS

RULE 20 –general exceptions.

NOTICE is hereby given under Rule 26 of the Access to Information Rules contained in the Council's Constitution that the following key decision will be taken at Cabinet on: -

Cabinet, 8 April 2019 Update on Temporary Accommodation			
<u>Decision</u>	<u>Consultation and Timetable</u>	<u>Working Papers and files</u>	<u>Responsible Officer / Portfolio Holder</u>
In March, the council received confirmation that its bid to the accessing the private rented sector funding stream. Hastings Borough Council is the lead partner for the bid, on behalf of the four other housing authorities. The timescales to mobilise the project are very short, and authority from Cabinet is required to spend the grant.	N/A	N/A	Andrew Palmer, Assistant Director, Housing and Built Environment Councillor Andy Batsford

27/03/19

Signed 
Chief Legal Officer

Dated 

Note:

Rule 26.20 General Exception

If a matter which is likely to be a key decision has not been included in the forward plan, then subject to Rule 26.20 (special urgency), the decision may still be taken if:

- (a) the decision must be taken by such a date that it is impracticable to defer the decision until it has been included in the next forward plan and until the start of the first month to which the next forward plan relates;
- (b) the Chief Legal Officer has informed the chair of a relevant overview and scrutiny committee, or if there is no such person, each member of that committee in writing, by notice, of the matter to which the decision is to be made; and
- (c) the Chief Legal Officer has made copies of that notice available to the public at the offices of the Council; and
- (d) at least five clear days have elapsed since the Chief Legal Officer complied with (b) and (c).

Where such a decision is taken collectively, it must be taken in public.

To Councillor Webb
 Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

ACCESS TO INFORMATION RULES

KEY DECISIONS

RULE 20 –general exceptions.

NOTICE is hereby given under Rule 26 of the Access to Information Rules contained in the Council’s Constitution that the following key decision will be taken at Cabinet on: -

Cabinet 8 April 2019			
<u>Decision</u>	<u>Consultation and Timetable</u>	<u>Working Papers and files</u>	<u>Responsible Officer / Portfolio Holder</u>
Potential Commercial property Acquisition – Circa £2m plus stamp duty plus fees.	PART 2 report		Peter Grace (Chief Finance officer)
Bridge Way Industrial Estate			Cllr Peter Chowney (Leader)

27/03/19

Signed 
 Chief Legal Officer

Dated 

Note:

Rule 26.20 General Exception

If a matter which is likely to be a key decision has not been included in the forward plan, then subject to Rule 26.20 (special urgency), the decision may still be taken if:

- (a) the decision must be taken by such a date that it is impracticable to defer the decision until it has been included in the next forward plan and until the start of the first month to which the next forward plan relates;
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- that committee in writing, by notice, of the matter to which the decision is to be made; and
- (c) the Chief Legal Officer has made copies of that notice available to the public at the offices of the Council; and
 - (d) at least five clear days have elapsed since the Chief Legal Officer complied with (b) and (c).

Where such a decision is taken collectively, it must be taken in public.

Agenda Item 7a



Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 8 April 2019

Report Title: Temporary Accommodation Update

Report By: Andrew Palmer, Assistant Director, Housing and Built Environment

Purpose of Report

To update Cabinet on progress in acquiring temporary accommodation units, using the capital budget set aside in October 2018. To seek delegated authority from Cabinet to mobilise the Accessing the Private Rented Sector, Flexible Homelessness Support Grant top-up and Homelessness Prevention Grant top up a project funded by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local

Recommendation(s)

- 1. For Cabinet to acknowledge progress in acquiring temporary accommodation**
- 2. For Cabinet to authorise expenditure of £372,500 from the accessing the private rented sector grant**
- 3. For Cabinet to authorities expenditure of £225,000 from the Homelessness Prevention and Flexible Homelessness Support Grant top ups for the interventions set out in the report**
- 4. For Cabinet to delegate authority to the Assistant Director, Housing and Built Environment, in consultation the Lead Member for Housing and Leisure to mobilise the projects**

Reasons for Recommendations

There has been a significant increase in the number of households living in temporary accommodation in Hastings, as well as the amount of time people spend living there. This trend has both a financial implications for the council and impacts the quality of life of people living in temporary accommodation.

Introduction

1. The number of people living in temporary accommodation in February 2019 was 153, compared to 107 in April 2018. The average length of stay has also increased from 70.6 days to 116.9 days over the same period. The average cost per day per household currently stands at £34.36.
2. The household profile has also changed, with an increase in the number of families being placed in temporary accommodation.
3. At its meeting in October 2018, Cabinet approved capital funding to purchase its own units of temporary accommodation, to assist the council manage this increase in demand more cost effectively.
4. The council is also exploring a number of options to improve access to long-term accommodation for households living in temporary accommodation.

Pressures on Temporary Accommodation

5. The market for private rented accommodation in Hastings has become increasingly competitive over recent years, this has resulted in higher rents and restricted access for people in housing need.
6. Supply of accommodation in the social sector is also limited. The average waiting time for social housing currently stands at 403 days, although this can be significantly higher for larger family sized accommodation which is in particularly short supply. Turnover of social housing as proportion of the total stock is 0.68% per annum. To date there have been 196 vacancies arising in the social housing stock during 2018/19
7. The impact of the welfare reform agenda in 2012 and subsequent welfare reforms in 2016 has led to a significant reduction in the income of benefit dependant and low income households, which has further limited the ability of many households in housing need to access social housing appropriate for their needs or find alternative long term housing solutions in the private sector.
8. Ongoing reductions in Adult Social Care funding have further impacted, limiting availability into supported accommodation for some groups and discouraging new investment in the sector from traditional providers. This means that a number of individuals with higher level support needs are now looking to access mainstream temporary accommodation. Again, these individuals often struggle to access or retain longer term accommodation in the social and private rented sector, which can result in longer or repeated placements in temporary accommodation.
9. A combination of these factors has resulted in a rise in the number of placements in temporary accommodation and importantly an increased average length of stay, due to lack of genuinely affordable move on options for low income households.

Acquisition of Temporary Accommodation

10. At its meeting in October 2018, Cabinet approved the purchase of a property for use as temporary accommodation. The property comprises a block of five two bedroom flats. The council completed the purchase in February 2019.
11. Cabinet set aside a further £2,500,000 to capital funding to invest in temporary accommodation.
12. The council is prioritising the purchase of family-sized accommodation (minimum 2 bedrooms) as this achieves the largest cost savings and is generally easier to manage than smaller units. The properties will be managed in-house through the Social Lettings Agency (SLA). The SLA business case projects that the council will acquire at least 9 units of temporary accommodation by the end of 2019/20.
13. The Housing Operations Managers have been working closely with the Estates Manager to identify suitable properties. The council has since completed the purchase of three units of temporary accommodation, and had offers accepted on a further four properties. Purchasing these properties will achieve savings in the region of £165,000 each year, compared to traditional bed and breakfast accommodation.
14. A further five properties are also currently under consideration.

Accessing the Private Rented Sector

15. The council's priority for reducing its use of temporary accommodation is to improve access to long term housing solutions
16. The private rented sector in Hastings is large, accounting for over 50% of the total housing stock in some wards. However, many homeless households struggle to access accommodation in this sector without support. Landlords are often reluctant to accept tenants without a proven history of successful tenancy sustainment.
17. Hastings Borough Council recently led a successful bid to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) accessing the private rented sector funding stream, on behalf of Eastbourne, Lewes, Rother and Wealden councils.
18. The project will create a team of tenancy sustainment officers working with individuals and families approaching the council's homelessness services, primarily those living in temporary accommodation, to access new accommodation in the private sector. The officers will then provide ongoing support for approximately 6 months, while the tenancy is established, to ensure the household are able to sustain their accommodation. Funding has also been set aside in the bid for a rent guarantor pilot. It is also intended to adapt the Sussex Homemove website to include private rented sector properties.
19. The MHCLG confirmed the bid had been successful in March 2019. The total value of the project is £372,500. The funding allocated to Hastings for the next financial year is as follows:

3x FTE Tenancy Sustainment Officers	£105,000
Rent Guarantor Pilot	£26,700
Total	£131,700

20. This approach will be mirrored by the other housing authorities in East Sussex.
21. The timescales to mobilise the project are very short. Funding from the project will be used to backfill the council's existing temporary accommodation officer posts from April 2019, while the Tenancy Sustainment Officers are recruited. Temporary accommodation move and rent in advance / deposit payments issued will therefore be included as a project outcome.

Homelessness Prevention and Flexible Homelessness Grant Top Up

22. In March, the MHCLG allocated additional top ups to the councils Homelessness Prevention and Flexible Homelessness Support Grant allocations. The total value of the top ups is £225,000.
23. The additional funding is ring-fenced for the following activities:
- Prioritise prevention activity
 - Carry out homelessness activities in line with the principles of the homelessness reduction act
 - Reduce or eliminate the use of emergency bed and breakfast, particularly for periods over 6 weeks
24. In February, Cabinet approved the allocation of the original Flexible Homelessness Support Grant Allocation. The priority for allocating the additional top up is to improve access to long term accommodation. It is recommended that the additional top ups are allocated as follows:

Intervention	Allocation	Description
Social Lettings Agency	£35,000	This funding has been allocated as a contingency, to mitigate the risk of any delays in the housing company acquiring properties for rent.
Rent in Advance / Deposits	£60,000	The council originally allocated £120,000 for rent in advance and deposits. Demand for this service is likely to increase as

		a result of the accessing the private rented sector and rapid rehousing pathway projects and it is therefore intended to increase the allocation for this activity.
Rent guarantor scheme	£80,000	The guarantor scheme will focus on facilitating move on from temporary accommodation and supported accommodation to the private sector. A further £26,700 has been allocated to the scheme from the accessing the private rented sector fund.
Tenancy Sustainment	£30,000	The focus of this intervention is to minimise the number of new temporary accommodation placements, by supporting households who are at risk of homelessness sustain their existing accommodation where possible.
Rapid Rehousing Pathway – accommodation costs contribution	£20,000	The Rapid Rehousing Pathway provides funding to create a team of support officers working with rough sleepers and people at high risk of rough sleeping. The grant can only be used to cover staff costs, and it is therefore intended to allocate additional funding to cover temporary and long term accommodation solutions. A further £10,000 has also been re-allocated from our original Flexible Homelessness Support Grant allocation.
Total	£225,000	

25. Any underspend from the top-up at year end; will be used to offset the cost of bed and breakfast accommodation.

Connecting Hastings and Rother Together (CHART bid) – Live, Work, Thrive

26. Hastings Borough Council is leading a bid, developed in partnership with Rother District Council, Education Futures Trust, Fellowship of St Nicholas and Sussex Community Development Association. The project will create a team of mentors, who will support homeless households in the CHART area to access specialist employability and tenancy sustainment support, with the intention of improving access to long term accommodation.
27. The bid is currently being finalised with partners prior to submission. If successful, it is anticipated that the project will be up and running by October 2019. Match funding of up to £70,000 has been set aside from the council's Flexible Homelessness Support Grant allocation.

Wards Affected

All wards

Implications

Relevant project tools applied? Yes

Have you checked this report for plain english and readability? No

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness No

Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17) No

Risk Management No

Environmental Issues No

Economic/Financial Implications Yes

Human Rights Act No

Organisational Consequences Yes

Local People's Views No

Anti-Poverty Yes

Additional Information

None

Officer to Contact

Officer Name Michael Courts

Officer Email Address mcourts@hastings.gov.uk

Officer Telephone Number 01424 451315

Agenda Item 7b

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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